

**County Council Meeting
November 17, 2015**

Present: Jack Kroeger, Blake Bunner, Bill Spaetti, Steve Winsett, Dave Kress, Todd Ruxer, Aaron Benton, Attorney John Wetherill, Auditor Autumn Winkler

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Spaetti at 5:00 P.M.

Minutes

Minutes were presented from the September 15th, October 20th Budget Adoption, and October 20th regular meeting. Ruxer made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15th meeting. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved. Bunner made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 20th Budget Adoption meeting. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved. Bunner made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 20th regular meeting. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Additional Appropriations

County General

Jailer Overtime **\$10,000.000**

Request was made by Sheriff Jim McDurmon and he explained that due to employee turnover and employee leave time being used at year end, they felt sure they would run short on OT money. Kress made a motion to approve the \$10,000.00 additional appropriation for Jailer Overtime. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Inmate Meals **\$7,000.00**

Sheriff McDurmon made the request and stated they would not have enough money to complete the year, but that a new Head Cook has been hired and they feel the expense for inmate meals will go down, due to less use of readymade items. Bunner made a motion to approve the \$7,000.00 additional appropriation for inmate meals. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Legal Services **\$500.00**

Attorney John Wetherill was in attendance for the Plan Commission requesting additional funds for legal expenses. Planning and Zoning has had more legal issues than anticipated and additional funds are required to finish the year. Benton made a motion to approve the \$500.00 additional appropriation for legal services. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Inmate Housing **\$22,500.00**

Additional funds are needed for juvenile housing at Vincennes and this is the estimate of what the bill for December will be. Kroeger made a motion to approve the \$22,500.00 additional appropriation for Inmate Housing. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Courthouse Security

County User Fee **\$85,000.00**

Jury Pay **\$32,000.00**

County IVD Incentive **\$11,280.00**

Clerk IVD Incentive **\$10,000.00**

Pre-Trial Diversion **\$7,000.00**

Law Enforcement Fund **\$3,000.00**

Judge Dartt came before the council requesting an additional appropriation to fund a full-time Security Officer, 2 part-time Security Officers, and a Deputy Bailiff/Secretary. Courthouse Security is something that has been discussed for a few years and Judge Dartt feels it is time to get this started. Dartt explained that various departments have pledged to contribute funds to begin the process. The Sheriff and Judge Dartt are working together on this plan and both have funds available to contribute along with the Clerk and Prosecutor. Courthouse security was discussed at budget time and Dartt has come up with the above listed funds as a 1 year patch to kick start the program. This will be a long term expense and the council will have to determine how it will be funded after the one year is up. Dartt explained that we are almost the only county in the state that does not have courthouse security. Dartt then explained the uses of the funds listed. Sheriff McDurmon spoke up in agreement of getting courthouse security started. It was discussed that a committee needs to be created to discuss the best plan for the county and ways to fund it. Kroeger stated that we need to research all of our funding options and that there is even a tax that can be put in place to help fund it, called a public safety tax. Judge Dartt informed the council that something will take place in January 2016, it has been discussed for many years and they aren't waiting any longer. It does not have to be the long term plan, but

some action will take place. We need to get clarification on exactly what the requested funds can be used for, because there is a little bit of a gray area and we do not want to use them improperly. Benton asked Judge Dartt what is his first step in January to get this started. Dartt explained the first step would be to get a metal detector setup and being used. We need to start a committee and get a game plan. Judge Dartt presented statues that he believes supports the use of the listed funds for courthouse security. Bunner stated that he feels having a full-time bailiff as a presence in the courthouse that can be used in court or other areas as needed would be a good January fix. It was determined that a meeting would be scheduled in December with Judge Dartt, Sheriff McDurmon, and any council/commissioners that could be present to determine what plan of action we will take. Spaetti then asked if action needs to be taken on the Deputy Bailiff/Secretary position and Dartt informed him it did. Dartt stated that his office is very busy and that he will not go backwards on employees. He has come up with a plan to fund this position out of the Jury Pay fund and the Court IVD Incentive fund, so the burden of the position does not fall on County General. This is not a new position, but there are no longer funds available in Probation User Fees to fund this position. The person that was doing the probation secretary position is now coming out of the secretary line in county general and the position from Jury Pay and Court IVD Incentive will be a position compiled of new job duties. This position will handle all child support related court cases and will now do jury selection duties and all involvement with the jurors. That is why it is acceptable to pay this position out of the Jury Pay and Court IVD Incentive funds. Spaetti asked Dartt what happens when those funds are depleted and Dartt stated they will build back up. Benton asked Dartt if he has a plan to fund the position the following year and he stated yes that someone will go back into the Probation User Fee fund. The court system is working on building that fund back up. Dartt has restructured how they collect the probation user fees and plans on it building up so an employee can go back in it. Spaetti asked Dartt if he needs funds approved tonight for that position and Dartt stated that he does. Kroeger stated he can't imagine appropriating money from the 2016 budget, when the budget has not even been approved by the state yet. The only thing that can be done is an additional appropriation for the remainder of 2015 and Judge Dartt can come back in 2016 for the rest. It was determined that the council would approve enough to cover 1 month of salary. Benton made a motion to approve \$5,000.00 from the Jury Pay Fund and \$600.00 from the County IVD Incentive for a total of \$5,600.00 for replacement of an employee. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Transfers

Circuit Court

Decrease: 1000-136-4242.00 Computer Supplies	\$527.68
Increase: 1000-136-4451.00 Law Books	\$527.68
Decrease: 1000-136-4131.00 Special Judges	\$200.00
Increase: 1000-136-4363.00 Computer Warranty, etc.	\$200.00
Decrease: 1000-136-4137.00 Petit Jurors	\$500.00
Increase: 1000-136-4363.00 Computer Warranty, etc.	\$500.00
Decrease: 1000-136-4138.00 Witness Fees	\$250.00
Increase: 1000-136-4363.00 Computer Warranty, etc.	\$250.00

Kress made a motion to approve all listed transfers. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Sheriff

Decrease: 1000-105-4114.03 Senior Deputy	\$11,026.15
Increase: 1000-105-4114.04 Deputy Sheriff	\$11,026.15
Decrease: 1000-105-4118.00 Office Manager	\$1,250.00
Increase: 1000-105-4119.50 Part-time Help	\$1,250.00

Benton made a motion to approve the requested transfers. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

E-911

Decrease: 1222-000-4115.00 Senior Dispatcher	\$25,000.00
Increase: 1222-000-4116.00 Dispatchers	\$25,000.00

Bunner made a motion to approve the transfers for E-911. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Additional Appropriations**Immunization Grant****\$68,418.00**

Kim Hay from the Spencer County Health Dept. came before the council to explain the details of the immunization grant they received. This grant is to be used to compensate the employees for additional hours worked over and above the standard 35 hour work week. Hay explained that they already work many additional hours, but this would compensate them for it instead of earning comp time. They cannot complete their jobs in a 35 hour week. Bunner stated that compensatory time can cause problems and he feels it should not happen in the county. Hay told the council the state established the rate of pay listed for each employee. It was determined that the rates listed would be used to cover the first 5 hours worked in a week above 35 hours, but after that all employees would be paid at an overtime rate. Any hours worked by an employee over 40 hours would have to be paid as overtime. Hay explained that since we received the grant this year, we will more than likely not receive it the following year. Kroeger asked Hay if this grant is used to aide in immunizing more children, what happens next year when the funding is gone? Hay stated that this grant is not geared toward children, but more so for adults, and it is used to assist in more advertising and purchasing equipment. Spaetti asked Hay if there will be more hours of service for individuals, due to this grant and Hay stated no, this will be used for them to work on paperwork. Spaetti stated that to approve this grant they needed to see how it would benefit the people and Hay stated they will not turn anyone away, but they must come during regular business hours 8-4. Bunner asked Hay if they had considered hiring someone PRN to come in and assist with paperwork, Hay stated that is not something they wished to do. They prefer to do the work themselves. After much discussion about overtime pay, it was determined that there would be a limit of 5 additional hours per week, this will prevent overtime. Winsett asked if they understand that if the grant is not awarded next year that the additional pay will be gone, Hay stated they are aware of that. Bunner asked if there will be any extended business hours and was told no it would still be 8-4. Bunner asked do you accept individuals until 4 and Hay stated no they stop taking them at 3 to give themselves time to finish paperwork and that will probably not change. Winsett made a motion to approve the immunization grant and for the employees to work no more than 40 hours per week. Spaetti seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Sharon Dugas – Office Wiring

Dugas came to request permission to have the wiring redone in her office. She stated it's a wiring nightmare and a safety concern. She asked what fund should be used to pay for this work. Dugas presented a quote from the same vendor that re-wired the Auditor's Office. The council informed Dugas the work can be done from the Cumulative Capital Fund out of Courthouse Maintenance, if the commissioners approve the work being done.

Melissa Brockman – 2016 Budget

Brockman came before the council to present the 2016 Annual Budget. Brockman explained that the budget is mostly the same as 2015, but highlighted a few new expenses such as, listings in the state travel guide, in-room guides, and continued work on the tourism promotion grant. The council noticed an increase in the budget for wages and Brockman explained that the budget reflects up to a 4% increase in wages. The Tourism Commission does an employee review to determine how much of an increase each employee will receive. Winsett asked Brockman how the council can approve a budget with a 4% increase, when the county employees received no increase in wages. Bunner explained that Winsett and himself are on the board for the Spencer County Council on Aging and that they mirror whatever the county does on wages, due to receiving county dollars and not wanting to do anything to get in the bad graces of the county and to show their appreciation for those funds. Brockman explained that all those issues are taken into consideration when determining the actual increase received. Benton made a motion to approve the 2016 budget. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Spencer County Catalyst Group

Members of the Catalyst Group explained that Spencer County is 1 of 6 finalists for the Hometown Collaboration Initiative, 5 will be chosen. There will be a site visit on November 19th at 12:00 pm for Spencer County to present things we are doing well and not so well. The Catalyst Group is requesting that as many elected officials as possible and any other interested individuals attend to show the full support of Spencer County for this project.

Legal Report

Wetherill explained that there is an opening on the Board of Zoning Appeals and stated that Charlie Waninger requested appointment. Spaetti spoke with Waninger and asked if he would be interested in the appointment and he expressed he would. Benton made a motion to appoint Charlie Waninger to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Wetherill informed the council that Hoosier Energy had sent a letter stating they did not want to proceed with obtaining a property tax abatement. They are proceeding with a different type of financing, which makes them ineligible to file for that deduction.

Wetherill presented Ordinance 2015-11 for council approval, which states that no additional compensation may be received by an employee over and above their approved salary ordinance amount unless the approved salary amount is lowered by the amount of the additional compensation. The only time additional compensation is approved is in the event that compensation comes from grants or other sources as payment for additional hours worked. Bunner made a motion to suspend the rules and approve the ordinance on first reading. Kroeger seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Mike Robinson – South Spencer School Corporation

Interim Superintendent Robinson came before the council to explain the school corporation’s interest in collaborating with the county on starting a health clinic. He wanted to make sure the council was aware that the school corporation was looking into this and to express their interest in the county being a part of it. After more information is gathered Robinson will report back to discuss this further with the county.

New Business

Kroeger explained that Attorney Kevin Patmore was in attendance, but had to leave early and wanted to address the council on rumors that were circulating. There was a rumor going around from county employees that they were not receiving raises for 2016, but that the county was contributing \$400,000.00 to the Town of Santa Claus for a bike trail. That is not an accurate statement; the county is fulfilling a previous commitment to the Town of Santa Claus to assist in funding their water project. There has been previous discussion that the town could use those funds towards another project if they were not needed for the water project, but that no additional funding would come from the county.

Kress made a motion to adjourn. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

_____	_____
President	
Attest:	
_____	_____
Autumn Winkler, Auditor	
_____	_____
_____	_____